

leery of encouraging more Executive action. That means most of the power here in Washington is exercised out of the White House and not done here in the people's House, here in Congress.

I encourage the administration to lead by example and encourage all of us to do the same—to try to work together for our shared priorities and create real and lasting change for our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, some of our Nation's finest answered the call of duty here in our Nation's Capitol over the last 2 weeks to assist with the peaceful transition of power and make sure that it was in fact peaceful. These dedicated men and women in the National Guard have taken an oath to protect that bedrock document, the Constitution of the United States, and, indeed, they have fulfilled that duty.

Some of our very finest in the National Guard came here to serve from my home State of Utah; 321 troops that have discharged their duties with distinction and honor came from the Utah National Guard.

The majority of Task Force Utah consisted of soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, 65th Fires Brigade, also known as Triple Deuce. Additional soldiers came from 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

I rise today to honor and thank these really selfless women and men. These past weeks, the Utah guardsmen were stationed at the Madison Building of the Library of Congress, just across the street from the Capitol. For many of these soldiers, it was their first time ever visiting Washington, D.C.

Major Brent Mangum of the Utah National Guard remarked that as the soldiers were stationed at buildings, they saw these quotes on the walls—quotes from our Founding Fathers—and as they were working in these buildings, you could see them pausing during the day, reading the quotes, and then stopping to reflect on them.

I, myself, had the great privilege, in a couple of different groups, to give some of these men and women a tour of the Capitol Building before they left to go back to Utah. It was a great honor to meet and get to know these dedicated guardsmen and to learn from their stories and to see firsthand their caliber as people and, most importantly perhaps, their visible commitment to the United States of America.

This idea, this principle, in this great land of ours—the greatest civilization human history has ever known—was something that they are independently committed to defending and protecting, even at the sacrifice of their own security and their own ease, which they would have otherwise enjoyed over the last couple of weeks.

One of the most remarkable things about these citizen soldiers is the way in which they tirelessly serve their communities, and I say that meaning both inside and outside of their Guard duty.

My Salt Lake City office was lucky enough to have one of these fine young soldiers, Alfredo Lopez, as an intern a few years ago.

Alfredo immigrated with his family from Peru at the age of 10, and they began to build a life here in the United States. In addition to serving the people of Utah in my State office, he also was on Active Duty with the Marine Corps before he joined the National Guard. Alfredo, in all of his endeavors in our country, has sought only to give back. He is grateful for this country and wants to make sure it is a strong, safe, and secure place in which to live.

Another guardsman who was here, Jay Bartholomew, is a prison guard at the Gunnison prison in Sanpete County, UT. He is the son of my friend Scott Bartholomew, a county commissioner in Sanpete County. Jay has followed in his family's footsteps to serve his local community.

Other guardsmen in Utah are engaged in their communities in all sorts of ways. Some are teachers, some are firefighters, some are policemen, and some are medical professionals. You name it; they have done it.

Many have now answered the call of duty on the frontlines of another crisis as our Nation faces the current pandemic. These guardsmen have played a significant role in providing testing, moving and storing personal protective equipment, and other support missions to assist Utah's Department of Health COVID-19 response.

Now, Utah Governor Spencer Cox has entrusted them with another critical mission. The Guard will be on the frontlines to help ramp up the delivery of vaccines to our State. The Guard has put together teams that can mobilize throughout Utah to deliver vaccinations and antibody infusions within a matter of hours and save a whole lot of lives and prevent a whole lot of suffering in the process.

I have no doubt that they will continue to administer this duty with dedication and with excellence, just as they do with every other assignment with which they are tasked. In everything they do, members of the Utah National Guard seek to serve and strengthen our communities, our country, and our State, and we are all better off for it.

It has been such an honor to have these selfless men and women in our Nation's Capitol. I have enjoyed get-

ting to know them and look forward to visiting again with them soon, and I thank them for their service.

#### ABORTION

Mr. LEE. Now, Mr. President, I would like to discuss another important matter. This past week, we marked the anniversary of a deadly day in American history. It has resulted in the loss of millions of innocent American lives. That is the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

Since January 22, 1973, more than 60 million unborn children have been lost to the scourge of abortion. This week, we honor and remember those lives, as well as those who have been hurt by the pains of abortion.

In a normal year, tens of thousands of Americans would be marching down Constitution Avenue this Friday to do so. This year, as with so many other things, the March for Life will instead be virtual. But, nonetheless, Americans will continue to march, whether virtually or in person where they can.

The theme of this year's march is "Together Strong: Life Unites!"—a fitting theme following a year ripe with division, violence, and loss. Now, more than ever, we must unite as a nation, turning with hope toward the future—hope that our Nation will heal, hope that justice will prevail, and hope that the grievous act of abortion will be forsaken. Given our country's history, in which we have stubbornly made mistakes but, thankfully, have come around in the end, there is much reason for hope. But we cannot heal and we cannot unite if we don't honor and respect all of the American people, born and unborn.

So many of the deepest injustices in our country's history stem from one dark dangerous thing; that is, when we have rejected the dignity of the human person, when we have denied the humanity of our brothers and sisters, when we have discriminated against others based on the way they look, think, love, or worship, and when, because of that, we have looked at them not as people but as things and as mere objects to be acted upon.

As abolitionist William Lord Garrison put it, the worst kind of oppression to be regarded with the greatest degree of indignation and abhorrence is "that which turns a man into a thing."

Now, we have discriminated against a whole class of people not based on the color of their skin but on their age and development.

But it doesn't change the truth. The truth is that a baby inside the womb can respond to human touch by the age of 8 weeks and feel pain by the age of 20 weeks—who can recognize her mother's voice even before she is born; who has a perfect little nose, fingernails, and a beating, fully functioning heart, her own distinct unique DNA, and her own unique unrepeatable soul.

Science and medicine are only confirming what we know deep down, that unborn human beings are in fact little